



### **Chris Danou's Capitol Report**

#### **Fall Brings Another Hunting Season to Wisconsin**

This is the time of year that sends kids back to school, has the Badgers playing on Saturday and the Packers playing on Sunday. It brings nice days and cool evenings as we transition from one season to another. While it looks like some leaves are already changing colors, we know this is a time for people to enjoy some great weather and outdoor opportunities.

Another year of fall hunting has officially begun for people in our community and across the state. As more people get in the woods and others are planning for an upcoming season, I'd like to make sure folks have as much information as possible. Even though certain seasons have begun for deer, bear, migratory birds, wild turkey, small mammals and other game birds, it's important for people to know key dates for the 2015-2016 hunting season.

While archery and crossbow season for deer hunting has already started and goes until January 3, 2016, there are some dates for deer hunting to be aware of in the coming weeks. There's a gun hunt for deer hunters with disabilities taking places October 3 – October 11. For more information about this, please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/disdeer.html>. The annual youth deer hunt will take place October 10-11, with the gun hunt going from November 21-29 and muzzleloader happening November 30-December 9.

Bear hunting is also under way in Zone C where dogs are not permitted and goes until October 13. Specifically, in those zones, people are allowed to hunt with the aid of bait and all other legal methods that don't include using dogs. In zones where dogs are permitted, people can use the aid of bait and other legal methods until October 6.

Waterfowl and migratory bird seasons bring different dates for different animals and regions that include the Canada goose, wild ducks, mergansers, coot and moorhen, sora and Virginia rail, snipe, woodcock and mourning dove. Some seasons, like those for Canada goose and other geese have already started but for more details about dates and regions, please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/dates.html> under the migratory birds tab.

Wild turkey and crow seasons opened on September 12, with turkey season going until November 19. Other game birds like pheasant, bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse and Hungarian partridge will take place this October, November, December and some seasons like crow and ruffed grouse in Zone A will go into 2016.

The cottontail rabbit season in the Northern zone opened on September 12 as well and goes until February 29, 2016. Gray and fox squirrels seasons are under way and go until January, 31, 2016. Furbearers like the coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, bobcat, fisher, otter, and raccoon have different seasons for hunting and trapping. These dates can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/dates.html> under the furbearers tab.

No matter what hunting season takes you into the woods this fall, please remember to have a great time and always be safe!

